

TRIBUTE TO BOB JEFFRIES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my good friend, Bob Jeffries.

Born in Birmingham, AL, the grandson of slaves, in 1907, Bob learned to cook at an early age, using as he said, from food products grown on the farm. During his career, he worked as a musician, a chef in Harlem nightclubs, and in restaurants around the New York area.

During the late 70's he cooked for a Member of Congress, and fed most of the Washington community. Now retired, and living at a Brooklyn Heights senior citizen residence operated by the Brooklyn Catholic Charities, Bob continues to cook for his many friends throughout the city. He is active and busy every day, visiting friends in need, continuing to enjoy the city and sharing his good humor and kindness with his large extended family.

His 90th birthday was celebrated by 80 members of his "family" at the home of Rita and Allen Schwartz in Brooklyn Heights. Bob insisted on cooking for the family and we were all thankful the good food and fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr. Bob Jeffries a warm and heartfelt 90th birthday.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO REFORM CONGRESSIONAL
PENSIONS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, calls for reduced Government spending have echoed throughout this great Nation of ours. Unfortunately, all too often the voices of the people have not been heard by this Chamber. When these cries have been heard, the response has simply been to shift the burden of budget cuts. I believe the time has come for the Members of Congress to lead by example.

Today, I have introduced legislation that demonstrates to the American people the steadfast commitment of this Congress to fight against excessive spending by tackling the largest perk in Government—congressional pension plans.

Our retirement benefits are ridiculously more lucrative than those of many private sector and all Federal employees. Some Members of Congress make more in retirement than most Americans could hope to make in a lifetime. My legislation will slam shut the doors of this congressional pension millionaires club.

The bill I have sponsored recalibrates the formula used to calculate Members' pension. It changes the equation so that our pension plan is the same as that of any other Federal employee. It also increased the age at which a former member may begin to collect their benefits from age 50 to age 55.

The time has come for us to address the gross disparities between congressional retirement benefits and those of the average Amer-

ica. The era of governmental abuse has come to a close and the buck stops with us. I urge my fellow Members to hear the calls of the American people, and demonstrate your leadership by setting the example and cosponsoring this legislation.

VIETNAM VETERAN DREW PETERSON
RETIRES FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Drew Peterson graduated from high school in South Haven, MI, in 1967, and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served two voluntary tours of duty in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division, where he was wounded during a Communist rocket and ground attack and later received the Bronze Star Medal. Drew then served with the Indiana National Guard where he rose to the commissioned officer rank of captain, having served in the intelligence and the security-counterterrorism training field.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the regular Army in 1970, Drew attended college and continued his public service career by becoming a Michigan certified deputy sheriff and later served with the Michigan State Police.

In 1983, Drew accepted a position with the Department of Defense in Indianapolis as a security-specialist at Fort Benjamin Harrison. During this time, he represented DOD as a member of the Law Enforcement Committee on Crime Prevention for the 1987 Pan American Games held in Indianapolis.

In 1987, Drew transferred to GSA's U.S. Federal Protective Service as a Federal law enforcement agent specializing in security. During his tenure with FPS, Drew served as the acting district director in charge of the security and law enforcement staff and functions in four States.

With FPS, Drew also served as a criminal investigator and security specialist, where among his accomplishments was to conduct security surveys for the Office of the Vice President of the United States and Congressmen, plus counterterrorism surveys of Federal courthouses and the Army Finance and Accounting Center in Indianapolis.

In 1995, Drew was involved with the President's requested Department of Justice review of the security for major Federal facilities and courthouses following the terrorist bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City. His counterterrorism recommendations to enhance security were adopted by Government agencies.

During Drew's tenure with the Federal Government, in addition to completing training in management and law enforcement, he completed his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and a master of arts degree in executive development for public service from Ball State University.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Drew Peterson for his many accomplishments and his devotion and service to our country.

MICROCREDITS ARE ABOUT
EMPOWERMENT

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of participating in the microcredit summit held here in Washington. I wanted to take time to introduce this worthwhile program to you.

Poverty—be it in rich or poor nations—makes not just affected families and their surrounding communities vulnerable, it erodes the fabric of the nations in which they live.

One of the best and most effective uses of American foreign aid to combat poverty is through microcredits, the loaning of small amounts of capital, usually around \$150, to indigent entrepreneurs to start their own small businesses.

What are microcredits about? They are about empowerment. The beneficiaries of this aid tend to be predominately women. The program has an astounding rate of success; 98 percent of loans are repaid on time and, in fact, many of the banks set up to disburse microcredit loans have gone on to become successful full-service banks.

The goal of the recently held summit was to begin the process of assisting 100 million of the globe's poorest families work their way out of poverty by the year 2005. These budding entrepreneurs will use this money as an investment. The more money invested in this fashion will decrease traditional foreign aid handouts in the long run.

I would like to commend microcredit experts who have shown what creative thinking can accomplish, even when applied to an entrenched and stubborn problem such as poverty. This solution holds real promise, not only around the globe, but here in the United States as well. I encourage all my colleagues to investigate this program and to lend your support.

TRIBUTE TO THE 13TH COAST
GUARD DISTRICT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who serve in the U.S. Coast Guard. I extend special recognition to the members of the 13th Coast Guard District who so capably serve my home district and the people of the Pacific Northwest region of our country.

The beauty and grandeur of the waterways of the Northwest are paralleled by the dangerous and unpredictable situations they sometimes present. On February 12, 1997, violent weather off the coast of the Olympic Peninsula threatened the safety of a sailboat and its passengers. In the middle of the night the Coast Guard responded to the distress call and saved the passengers. Unfortunately, one of the two Coast Guard rescue boats from the Quillayute River Station capsized in the strong winds and high waves of the Pacific Ocean. Three crewmembers were lost; the fourth survived.